(d) No, sir. The present CMD, after taking over in April, 1987 has been abroad only once, for a week, to participate in Buver Seller Meet in Moscow in June '87.

(e) Does not arise.

Combatisation of non-Gazetted Ministerial staff of CRPF

2741. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
DR. C. SILVERA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-Gazetted Ministe rial staff of the CRPF was eombatised w.e.f. 28th February, 1981 by abo lishing their non-Gazetted civil posts but they were not allowed the pay scales as well as the scales of uniform of their respective eombatised nosts in General Duty Ranks;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for not allowing all the benefits of combatisation; and

(c)i whether it is a fact that consequent upon their combatisation the non-Gazetted Ministerial staff have to suffer loss in their service period on account of reduction of their age of retirement from 58 years to 55 years; if so, what remedial measure Government purposes to take to compensate these non-Gazetted Ministerial staff?

THE. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN[1] THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAM-BARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The non-gazetted ministerial staff of CRPF who were eombatised in 1981 were not given the scales of pay as for executive ranks in 1981 on grounds of repercussion elsewhere. All the items of uniform were not allowed to the ministerial staff after combatisation due to their sedentry nature of duties, and in view of the fact that some items are required to be used only for operational requirements with which the ministerial staff have nothing to do.

(c) It is a fact that consequent upon their combatisation the age of superannuation of the non-Gazetted eombatised ministerial staff has been reduced from 58 to 55, Having regard to this aspect, they have now been granted scales of pay as applicable to the corresponding non-gazetted executive ranks.

Corporation for export of garments

2742. DR. C. SILVERA; Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Corporation for export of garments; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI s KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No proposal for setting up a Corporation for exports of garments is at present under the cnsideration of the Government.

Pay scales of CRPF

2743. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fourth Pay Commission has recommended that after commbatisation all its consequences should follow in the CRPF and Government have accept-ed the recommendations;

(b) whether the required pay scales have been allowed to the General Duty Ranks staff of CRPF w.e.f. 1st January. 1986 while in case of non-Gazetted Ministerial staff they have

been allowed to get the Tevised scale w.e.f. llth June 1987;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this discrimination;

(d) whether Government propose to allow revised scale to non-Gazetted staff also w.e.f. 1st January, 1986 and

(e) if irot what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDA-,ARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Non-Gazetted ministerial staff of CRPF was combatised in 1981 and since then they were allowed civilian
scales of pay. The decision to allow them the scales of pay as for non-gazetted executive ranks was taken in June, 1987 and these scales were therefore allowed to them with effect from the date of issue of the sanction i.e. 11-6-87.

(d) and (e) The question of giving effect to and the new scales of pay to ministerial combatised staff from 1st January, 1986 is under consideration.

Port Blair as a Free Port

2744. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare Port Blair as a free port;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof: and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE TN THE MINISTERY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a> *to* 919 RS—6.

(c) Some suggestions have been received for the development of a free port in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. No decision has been taken on the proposal which requires to be evaluated in depth having regard to various issues.

Shortage of application forms in the Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad

2745. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that application forms for new Passports and for renewal were not available in the recent past in the Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, what remedial steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) how many such forms were supplied to this office during the last three years, year-wise and out of it how many were made available to the general public and Agents;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the past private parties could print such forms and they were accepted; and

(e) if so, what remedial steps have allowed again to overcome the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 2.85,000 forms were supliea to Re«io"n! Passoort Office, Ahmedabad since October 1986 to the present date. Before this there was no svstem in existence of centralised printing and distribution of forms. Therefore, no statistics exist for previous periods,

Oit. of the=e 77.243 forms have se far been given to the general public and travel agents.